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AUTAUGAVILLE MAN INDICTED AND DETAINED ON FEDERAL GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

Montgomery, Alabama - William Walter Ohoro, age 46, of Autaugaville, Alabama, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in a four-count indictment for violations of federal drug and firearms laws, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. The indictment charges that on July 28, 2009, Ohoro possessed 17 firearms after being convicted of a felony offense; that he possessed marijuana with intent to distribute, that he possessed methamphetamine, and that he possessed firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Ohoro was arrested and arraigned on the charges on December 10, 2009, in United States District Court in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time Ohoro pled not guilty to all counts and had a lawyer appointed to represent him. After a hearing held on December 14, 2009, a federal magistrate judge ordered Ohoro detained without bond pending trial. At that hearing, the evidence showed that at the time of his arrest on December 10, 2009, police officers found a large quantity of marijuana and methamphetamine at his residence. At the time, Ohoro was already out on bond from pending state court criminal charges.

Trial on the offense was set for February 8, 2009, at the federal courthouse in Montgomery.

If convicted, Ohoro faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for being a felon in

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possession of firearms; five years for possessing marijuana with intent to distribute; one year for possessing methamphetamine; and a minimum of five years up to a maximum of life in prison for possessing a firearm in connection with a drug trafficking offense.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "The Alabama ICE program attempts to protect our community from the dangers posed by convicted felons who possess firearms and the mix of drugs and guns."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"). The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

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